

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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LB 138

CLERK: Senator Robak has the first amendment. Senator, AM0518 to the bill. (See page 788 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Chair recognizes Senator Robak to open on her amendment.

SENATOR ROBAK: Thank you, Madam President and members of the body. First I'd like to thank Senator Wickersham for the introduction of this bill and, and 138. This...recently, this bill would define and establish the state of Nebraska Emergency Medical Services, establish a review board. I do have one concern with this bill. In Section 5, paragraph (2)(b), the bill specifies who will be on this EMS advisory board. This particular section designates, three of the members shall be qualified physicians actively involved in emergency medical care. At least one of the family (sic) members shall be a board-certified surgeon. That's kind of surprising because surgeons have no formal training in prehospital care. While many moonlighting part-time surgeons have worked in emergency rooms throughout the state, only board-certified emergency physicians are actually formally trained in the direction and provisions of emergency medical care. All persons specializing in emergency medicine through a residency program are required to spend time working with ambulance crews and they're familiar with the national state policies and they're involved every day with the provisions of emergency medical care. Surgeons have no such training. I would like to investigate this matter further, but I would like to make appropriate recommendation that board-certified emergency physicians be mandatory board members either along with or in place of the surgeon. That does not mean we can do away with this bill entirely, it would just be along with or in place of the surgeon. Including them on the EMS advisory board would have obvious benefits for prehospital care in all the communities. More importantly, they are the only persons qualified to work with prehospital care providers. And the amendment is very simple, it's three lines. On page 5, line 13, after surgeon insert, and at least one of the physician members shall be a board-certified emergency physician. As I said before, it does nothing to harm the intent of the bill, it does not harm the bill, it does not say that...it does not change the board at all, it just says that at least one of the